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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 020538Z NOV 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8003
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8683
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2078
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4762
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1328
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q NORTH KOREA - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Thursday morning's Yomiuri front-paged plans by the USG and GOJ to demand at an early stage of the resumed six-party talks that North Korea clarify its intention to completely dismantle its nuclear program.

¶1. "Six-Party Talks: First, Stop the Situation from Worsening" The liberal Asahi editorialized (11/2): "North Korea will return to talks with the international community.... At least for the time being, dialogue is back on track, and this is a welcome development.... Nevertheless, this does not mean that there has been movement toward a resolution of the North Korean nuclear crisis. Pyongyang has agreed to sit down at the table, but the crisis itself remains unchanged. It is not clear what the North Koreans are thinking in returning to the six-party talks, though they are likely seeking economic assistance after ratcheting up the crisis by launching missiles and testing a nuclear weapon. They must not be allowed to repeat this kind of brinkmanship.... North Korea is continuing to make nuclear material and develop missiles. It will not be easy to get that country to abandon the military projects on which the regime has staked its survival. Given the circumstances, our priority now should be to keep the situation from worsening, which means getting Pyongyang to freeze its nuclear program and to forgo any further nuclear tests."

SCHIEFFER